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IRONTON, MO., THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1901.

NUMBER 45.

TRY US:

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Southeast Missouri. Insure satisfaction. Pri-

Tariff, Prices and Wages.

IRONTON, Mo., April 18, 1901. Register-Referring to a recent article in a trade journal that speaks with authority, I cotice that "Pig iron, steel rails and other manufactures of iron and steel" can be manufactured in the United States, delivered in England, Scotland or Ireland, and sold at 127 10 per cent. less than they cost to manufacture at the mills in the United Kingdom; and, still leave a margin, not a very large one, but still a margin of profit, to the American Manu-25 facturer. The reason given for this is three fold: England draws her best iron ore from Spain; her coal costs her from 20 to 30 per cent. more, laid down 300 in the stack-house, than it does in this 374 country; and the mills and engineering works in this country do the job, be it of great or small dimensions, in 800 from one-third to one-half the time it 37 takes in the English mills. This same 125 trade journal, goes on to state that, in 10,451 consequence of these three advantages accruing to the American manufactured product, the United States has 115 22 derived millions of pounds' worth of

> pendencies. Recent advices from England state that in order to meet the competition of American manufactured goods the wages in some of the largest mills there have been cut from 20 to 30 per. Now, sir, can our Republican friends kindly explain of what advantage is it to impose a bounty in the form of a protective tariff upon a commodity in which we can undersell our rivals in their own markets? The plea is always made that protection inures to keep up the price of labor, but with the iron and steel industries under the single control of a body of men whose interests are identical, the labor market, like everything else, must respond to the law of supply and demand, and will in this case, at least, have to hire out in the cheapest and buy in the

commerce in steel rails, bridge and

other engineering work in Canada, In-

dia Australia, and other British de-

dearest market. Mr. Edward Atkinson has lately compiled some statistics, to show that the domestic consumption of Iron and allied products, which in 1899-1900 was 350 pounds per capita will be, in 1902, estimating the population at 80,000,-000, at the least 400 pounds per capita, or in round numbers 16,000,000 tons of 2,000 pounds each, while our export trade will take a further 2,500,000 tons, based on the present outlook. These figures are admitted by this same trade journal to be correct and conservative. Why is it that we must make the American artisan pay this extra tariff on 16,000,000 tons when our only rivals cannot make the product sufficiently inexpensively to keep

their own market? It is related of a warrior in the olden time, that he had a two-edged sword, with which he would kill one of his enemies with a blow, and with the recoil would account for another. Is it that our Iron-masters and the manipulators of these vast commercial enterprises are arming themselves with a similar weapon to use against those by whose labor they are enabled to earn increment upon their capital?

All parties have declared themselves as desirous of dealing effectively, with the Trust issue. If the Republican party is honest in its declarations, let it strike at the root of the tree and place iron, steel and iron manufactures on the free list first; then follow this with other commodities until the American working man is enabled to purchase the necessaries of life in the cheapest market, and he will be found perfectly capable of dealing with the wage problem himself. At any rate, this wage problem is one that cannot be regulated by legislation and most follow the law of supply and demand. Yours, truly,

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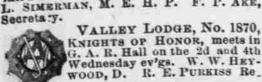
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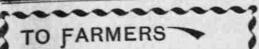
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